

COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION 41
 TOPIC Koethen Airfield REPORT NO. 25X1A

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 8 April to 5 May 1953

DATE OBTAINED 16 June 1953

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE
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1. Almost every day between 8 and 13 April 1953, there was air activity at Koethen airfield. Between 14 and 20 April, only few flights were made. At about 11 a.m. on 21 April, 9 jet bombers flew in squadron wedge formation over Koethen at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters. Between 11 a.m. and noon on 29 April, no air activity was observed. Seven swept-back jet fighters and a conventional plane were parked in the area of the hangars.

2. In April, construction work, probably on shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments, was under way in the southern section of the field.

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3. The following air activity was observed at the field between 22 and 30 April:

22 April. Between 3:20 p.m. and 4 p.m., there was intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters. Aircraft observed at the field included 12 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s planes and 2 conventional aircraft in front of the hangars and 4 MiG-15s at another site.

23 April. Between 12:20 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., several take-offs were made by elements of two.

24 April. There was air activity by MiG-15 No 349 which towed an air sleeve and two-seater swept-back jet fighters

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26 April. There was no air activity between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

28 April. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. no air activity was observed.

29 April. There was no air activity between 11:20 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

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30 April. Between noon and 1:30 p.m., only 4 MiG-15s were parked at the field. There was no activity except for work on the shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments.

4. Near the fence in the southwestern section of the field, construction work was under way on shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments, two of which were nearing completion. About 10 trucks continuously hauled earth from an old AA gun emplacement near triangulation point 94.4 to the construction site. Two soldiers were observed near a semi-underground hut south of the west end of the runway. About 400 meters east of this hut there was a newly dug-out ditch or shelter.

5. A dug-out fuel container was observed at the fuel dump and another container of the same size was in the fenced-in area to the south.

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6. Between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 30 April, there was no air activity.

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7. Between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 24 April, take-offs were made by swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks. The aircraft made flights of 15 to 20 minutes. At about 4 p.m., flights were made by single-engine planes. There was no air activity on 25 and 26 April. Between 10:20 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 27 April, take-offs and landings were made by individual MiG-15s. A MiG-15 with auxiliary fuel tanks and towing an air sleeve was repeatedly observed aloft. Between 28 April and 5 May, no air activity was observed.

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8. On 29 April and 2 May, three railroad tank cars were observed on the spur track of the field.

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- 25X1A Comment. According to available information, Koethen airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments. One of these regiments belongs to the fighter division in Merseburg while no definite information is available on the subordination to which division the other unit is assigned. Since October 1952, a total of 49 aircraft numbers have been counted.

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